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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/808,657	03/15/2001	Keith E. Finger	RD0530-ASGCO	4923
110	7590	07/01/2004	EXAMINER	
DANN, DORFMAN, HERRELL & SKILLMAN 1601 MARKET STREET SUITE 2400 PHILADELPHIA, PA 19103-2307			SHARMA, RASHMI K	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			3651	

DATE MAILED: 07/01/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/808,657

Applicant(s)

FINGER ET AL.

Examiner

Rashmi K. Sharma

Art Unit

3651

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 1 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 27 April 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 2-8, 10, 12-57 and 71-89 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 39-57 and 71-89 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 2-8, 10 and 12-38 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 3/15/2001 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Election/Restrictions

This application is in condition for allowance except for the presence of claim 39-89 to an invention non-elected with traverse in Paper dated 8/19/2002. Applicant is given ONE MONTH or THIRTY DAYS from the date of this letter, whichever is longer, to cancel the noted claims or take other appropriate action (37 CFR 1.144). Failure to take action during this period will be treated as authorization to cancel the noted claims by Examiner's Amendment and pass the case to issue. Extensions of time under 37 CFR 1.136(a) will not be permitted since this application will be passed to issue.

The prosecution of this case is closed except for consideration of the above matter.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 2-8, 10 and 12-38 have been allowed.

The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter:

Independent claims 2 and 34 recite the structural limitation of "wherein said blade is mounted on said blade holder with said blade holder disposed in said blade cavity with said skirts releasably engaging said blade holder", in combination with the rest of the recited structure, clearly defines over the prior art.

Independent claims 3 and 23 recite the structural limitation "wherein said blade holder includes a rod and a longitudinal key-bar extending radially therefrom, said blade body having a key-bar slot in the blade cavity for receiving said key-bar when said rod is disposed in the blade cavity", in combination with the rest of the recited structure, clearly defines over the prior art.

Independent claim 12 recites the structural limitation "wherein said housing member has an arcuate shape complementary to an arcuate edge of said outer collar, and wherein said clamp engages the arcuate shape of said outer collar with the arcuate shape of said housing member", in combination with the rest of the recited structure, clearly defines over the prior art.

Independent claim 18 recites the structural limitation "wherein said tensioner further includes a housing member fixed with respect to said mount and extending proximate said inner and outer collars, and a clamp for releasably constraining the rotational position of said outer collar with respect to said housing member, wherein said clamp includes at least one of a torque limiting clutch and an anti-vibration device", in combination with the rest of the recited structure, clearly defines over the prior art.

Independent claim 22 recites the structural limitation "wherein said pair of skirts flex so that said scraper blade snaps into and out of engagement with said blade holder", in combination with the rest of the recited structure, clearly defines over the prior art.

Reasons for allowance for independent claim 29 has been made of record in the Non-Final Rejection dated 5/23/2003.

The unique arrangement of the flexible pair of skirts capable of being snapped on and off the blade holder allows for a more cost effective and efficient way of replacing blades. The unique feature of the blade holder having a key-bar arrangement allows the scraper blade to be fitted more securely to the blade holder, in combination with the flexible pair of skirts configuration. The advantage of the specific tensioner arrangement quoted above, allows for a more secure blade pressure to be maintained by the apparatus, able to be more easily and comfortably handled by the operators of the system.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication should be directed to Rashmi Sharma who can be reached at 703-306-5952 Monday through Friday.

Any general inquiry concerning the status of this application should be directed to the Group receptionist who can be reached at 703-308-1113 Monday through Friday.

Kathy Matecki

KATHY MATECKI
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
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